CBM is found and how much is the reserve in terms of quantity and in terms of value and action taken to exploit the same;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Coal Bed Methane found in Gujarat has not been exploited as the mineral rights has not been established; and

(c) the action Government are contemplating to explore and exploit CBM found in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Coal Bed Methane (CBM), being Natural Gas, is covered under provisions of the Oil (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959. The available studies indicate the presence of CBM resources in the states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The commerciality of CBM production can be known only after exploration is carried out. The policy approved by the Government of India provides for exploration and exploitation of CBM throughtout the country.

Additional Payment made on Import of Crude

2993. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that additional amount had to be paid for import of crude oil due to devaluation of rupee against dollar in the country;

(b) if so, the additional amount paid by the country on the basis of value of rupee against dollar in March, 1998 and during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 separately; and

(c) the estimated additional amount likely to be paid for the import of crude oil during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The additional amount paid during the last three years and the estimated additional amount likely to be paid for import of crude oil during the current year due to devaluation of rupee against dollar *vis-a-vis* its exchange rate in March, 1998 are given below:

	Additional amount Rs. Crore
1998-99	943
1999-00	3,444
2000-01	8,723
2001-02	11,245

Concessions Sought by India From OPEC

† 2994 SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had sought concessions from the oil exporting countries in the recently held Petroleum Conference (17th to 20th September, 2001) in China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of OPEC countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The First Asia Regional Meeting of the World Petroleum Congress was held in Shanghai in China from 17th to 20th September, 2001. The said conference was attended amongst others, by China, India and Saudi Arabia. The theme of the meeting was "technology and cooperation - a fundamental strategy for Asia's petroleum industry". Issues of stabilizing the prices and continuity of the supply of crude were not discussed in the Regional Meeting.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.